

To: StClair, Christie[StClair.Christie@epa.gov]; Smith, Paula[Smith.Paula@epa.gov]
From: Peterson, Cynthia
Sent: Thur 4/14/2016 8:42:17 PM
Subject: RE: ACTION: Daily Caller; Bonita Peak Mining District HRS; DEADLINE 5 pm today

For Silverton, I think they take their drinking water from an upstream tributary to the Animas River that wasn't impacted by the release. I believe Durango shut their intake, and I'm not sure about Farmington and the NN. I thought you might have some vetted answers to that question already.

Cynthia Peterson

Community Involvement Coordinator

Public Affairs and Community Involvement

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII

1595 Wynkoop St. (8OC-PAI)

Denver, CO 80202-1129

303-312-6879 -- direct dial

From: StClair, Christie
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 2:24 PM
To: Smith, Paula <Smith.Paula@epa.gov>
Cc: Peterson, Cynthia <Peterson.Cynthia@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: ACTION: Daily Caller; Bonita Peak Mining District HRS; DEADLINE 5 pm today

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Christie St. Clair

U.S. EPA Office of Media Relations

c: 202-768-5780

On Apr 14, 2016, at 4:21 PM, Smith, Paula <Smith.Paula@epa.gov> wrote:

Agreed.

Christie-Thoughts?

- Paula

From: Peterson, Cynthia
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 1:19 PM
To: Smith, Paula <Smith.Paula@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: ACTION: Daily Caller; Bonita Peak Mining District HRS; DEADLINE 5 pm today

Paula,

I don't know if Christie would want to weigh in on this, but my understanding is that drinking water in Silverton was not affected by the release.

Cynthia Peterson
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Public Affairs and Community Involvement
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From: Belle, Kara
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 1:09 PM
To: Smith, Paula <Smith.Paula@epa.gov>
Cc: Peterson, Cynthia <Peterson.Cynthia@epa.gov>; Cohen, Nancy

<Cohen.Nancy@epa.gov>; Wells, Suzanne <Wells.Suzanne@epa.gov>; Fitz-James, Schatzi <Fitz-James.Schatzi@epa.gov>; Murray, Bill <Murray.Bill@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: ACTION: Daily Caller; Bonita Peak Mining District HRS; DEADLINE 5 pm today

Hi Paula,

See inquiry from the Daily Caller below. I think you all could provide the best response. Please let me know if you think differently. The deadline is 5pm est

Kara Belle

Community Involvement and Program Initiatives Branch

Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

(703)603-8815

From: Lemon, Mollie

Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 2:52 PM

To: Belle, Kara <Belle.Kara@epa.gov>; Gartner, Lois <Gartner.Lois@epa.gov>; Wells, Suzanne <Wells.Suzanne@epa.gov>

Cc: Cohen, Nancy <Cohen.Nancy@epa.gov>; Deitz, Randy <Deitz.Randy@epa.gov>; Glikes, Michael <Glikes.Michael@epa.gov>; Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>

Subject: ACTION: Daily Caller; Bonita Peak Mining District HRS; DEADLINE 5 pm today

Hi all –

Incoming Gold King inquiry below, with a deadline of 5 pm today. Could you please also loop in and coordinate with the appropriate regional staff?

Thanks in advance!

Mollie

Mollie Lemon

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Media Relations

202.343.9859

From: Ethan Barton [<mailto:ethan@dailycallernewsfoundation.org>]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 2:25 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>; Lemon, Mollie <Lemon.Mollie@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Bonita Peak Mining District HRS

Here's the link to the HRS document, for your convenience:

<https://semspub.epa.gov/work/08/1769520.pdf>

On Thu, Apr 14, 2016 at 2:24 PM, Ethan Barton <ethan@dailycallernewsfoundation.org> wrote:

Hello,

I have some questions regarding the Bonita Peak Mining District HRS Documentation Record.

I would like to know why the drinking water threat was not scored. The document shows that ground water migration pathway was not scored because of the low population density and because there are "no municipal wells located within the four mile radius that serve as potable supplies."

However, Silverton, Colorado, Farmington, New Mexico, and the Navajo Nation have all had their water supplies affected by the Gold King Mine release, which suggests water supplies are, in fact, impacted by the Bonita Peak Mining District.

Additionally, both the human food chain and the environmental threats scored the max values. How is it that the EPA claims the river is safe for humans and that drinking water is not affected, yet the human food chain is heavily threatened?

Given the threat to the human food chain, have residents who live in the area who consume wildlife, such as fishers in Silverton, Colorado, been warned of this threat and been given guidance?

In sum:

1. Why was drinking water not assessed in the HRS, given the details provided?
2. How can the human food chain be so heavily threatened, but the drinking water, as well as the Animas River, is safe for humans?
3. Has the EPA warned local residents and provided guidance on the threat to the human food chain?

My deadline is end of business today.

Thanks,

Ethan

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Ethan Barton

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